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# **NEWTON'S TELECOM DICTIONARY**

**The Official Dictionary  
of Telecommunications  
Networking and  
the Internet**

**16<sup>th</sup>  
EXPANDED  
& UPDATED  
EDITION**

**BY HARRY NEWTON**

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## NEWTON'S TELECOM DICTIONARY

or a clock with an adjunct, in a building that supplies DS1 and/or composite clock timing reference to all other clocks in that building. See BITS.

**Building Module** The standard selected as the dimensional coordination for the design of the building, e.g., a multiple of 100 mm (4 in), since the international standards have established a 100 mm (4 in) basic module.

**Building Out** The process of adding a combination of inductance, capacitance, and resistance to a cable pair so that its electrical length may be increased by a desired amount to control impedance characteristics.

**Building Steel** The structural steel beams that make up the frame of a building. If the steel frame is buried deep in the earth, it can be used as an electrical ground. But you'd better be careful: Unbalanced three-phase power is also probably using the frame as a ground, and you may pick up huge quantities of 60 hz hum.

**Bulk Billing** A method of billing for long distance telephone services where no detail of calls made is provided. WATS is a bulk billed service. Therein lies the problem for the cost conscious user. There's no verification of calls made. See Call Detail Recording.

**Bulk Encryption** Simultaneous encryption of all channels of a multichannel telecommunications trunk.

**Bulk Storage** Lots of storage. Usually reels of magnetic tape or hard disks.

**Bulletin Board System** A fancy name for an electronic message system running on a microcomputer. Call up, leave messages, read messages. The system is like a physical bulletin board. That's where the name comes from. Some people call bulletin board systems electronic mail systems. See also BBS.

**Bumper Beeper** Radio beacon transmitter, hidden in or on a vehicle for use with radio tailing equipment.

**Bunched Frame-Alignment Signal** A frame-alignment signal in which the signal elements occupy consecutive digit positions.

**Bundle 1.** A group of fibers or wires within a cable sharing a common color-code.

**2.** In T-1, specifically M44 Multiplexing, a bundle consists of 12 nibbles (4 bits) and may represent 11 channels of 32 Kbps compressed information plus a delta channel. A bundle is typically a subset of a DSI and treated as an entity with its own signaling delta channel.

**Bundle Fodder** Junk software included on CD-ROMs or packaged with peripherals such as modems and designed to bulk up the presumed value of the total package to entice an unsuspecting consumer to buy. See Shovelware.

**Bundled** Combining several services under one telephone tariff item at a single charge.

**Bundled Rates** Several services combined into one offering for one charge.

**Burden Test** A semi-legitimate test used in regulation to determine if the offering of a new or continued service will cause consumers of other services to pay prices no higher than if the service were not offered. In other words, the question is "Who carries the Burden?" It's sometimes called the "avoidable cost test."

**Burford Courier** An MCI definition. A communications software package developed for use with Wang VS mainframes enabling users to communicate directly with MCI International's Telex messaging services.

**Buried Cable** A cable installed under the surface of the ground in such a manner that it cannot be removed without disturbing the soil.

**Buried Service Wire Splice** A watertight splice filled with an encapsulant.

**Burn In** To run new devices and printed circuits cards, often at high temperatures, in order to pinpoint early failures. The theory is all semiconductor devices show their defects — if any — in the first few weeks of operation. If they pass this "burn-in" period, they will work for a long time, so the theory goes. "Burn-in" should probably be 30-days under full power and working load. Burn-in should also take place in a room with lots of heat and at least 50% humidity, since this will simulate the poorly-ventilated places most people install telephone systems.

**Burn Out** A condition, where stress causes agents to be apathetic and lethargic, caused by intensity of calling, lack of variety and poor working conditions. It is particularly associated with outbound cold calling and inbound complaint handling, both of which are stressful for agents if not carefully managed.

**Burn Rate** The speed at which a new company uses up its cash en route to developing a product before it turns cash positive.

**Burning A Pole** Slang expression to describe when an installer accidentally slides down a telephone pole. This usually happens on an old pole full of gaff holes when his gaff breaks out of the pole. Burning a pole results in painful chemical burns because the installer usually winds up with a chest and legs full of splinters coated with creosote, a coal tar distillate used to preserve the wooden pole. Installers are taught to "kick out," rather than hug the pole and suffer burns.

**Burrus Diode** A surface-emitting LED with a hole etched to accommodate a light-collecting fiber. Named after its inventor, Charles Burrus.

**Burst 1.** In data communication, a sequence of signals, noise, or interface counted as a unit in accordance with some specific criterion or measure.

**2.** To separate continuous-form or multipart paper into discrete sheets.

**3.** A small reference packet of the subcarrier sine wave, typically 8 or 9 cycles, which is sent on every line of video. Since the carrier is suppressed, this phase and frequency reference is required for synchronous demodulation of the color information in the receiver.

**Burst Isochronous** Isochronous burst transmission. See Isochronous.

**Burst Mode** A way of doing data transmission in which a continuous block of data is transferred between main memory and an input/output device without interruption until the transfer has been completed.

**Burst Switching** In a packet-switched network, a switching capability in which each network switch extracts routing instructions from an incoming packet header to establish and maintain the appropriate switch connection for the duration of the packet, following which the connection is automatically released. In concept, burst switching is similar to connectionless mode transmission, but it differs from the latter in that burst switching implies an intent to establish the switch connection in near real time so that only minimum buffering is required at the node switch.

**Burst Traffic** Burst traffic is many phone calls (usually incoming telephone calls) that simultaneously arrive at a computer telephony system. Burst traffic tests are usually performed as part of a systems load and stress testing. Burst traffic tests are particularly important for computer telephony systems as usually they must perform a lot of processing to set up to handle a call. The arrival of many calls simultane-

ously, such as in response to Oprah asks you to call 1-800-XXX-XXXX (Oprah is guilty or innocent), can put a computer telephony system.

**Burst Transmission** combines a very high data rate with short transmission times.

**2.** A method of operating intervals, the data being communicated between a network operating at dissimilar rates.

**Bursty** Refers to data that is discontinuous signals.

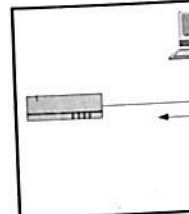
**Bursty Information** bursts with relatively long intervals. It is characterized as "bursty" because it transmits substantial amounts of data in short periods.

**Bursty Seconds** Bursts of time spent at a particular rate.

**Bursty Traffic** Communication with short periods of high intensity and long periods of little or no utilization.

**Bus 1.** An electrical connection that carries data to and from cards receive the same information. Only the card the information is in. This is convenient in "anywhere on the bus" inside a PC — the old megabyte per second transmitting up to 132 Mbytes per second. Computer buses are typically closed. See 2. An ATM term. BUS.

server handles data sent address (FFFFFFFFFFFF) cast frames which are sent works in conjunction with automatically registers MAC addresses and AT labeling each device tra



**Bus Card** An expansion card that provides a connection to the system's expansion bus.

**Bus Enumerator** A device required for each specific bus ("enumerating") the hardware on the bus.

**Bus Extender** A device that extends the length of a bus and increases the number of devices that can be connected.

**Bus Hog** A device that monopolizes the bus after gaining access to the bus, preventing other devices from communicating.